

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COURT  
REPORTING AND CAPTIONING  
WEEK, 2022

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters and the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week February 5–12, 2022.

As guardians of the Record, Court reporters hold the great responsibility of capturing our history for posterity. Throughout our Nation's 250 years of existence, court reporters have been the cornerstone of our American justice system. From the great speeches of our Founding Fathers to the eloquently orated speeches of Lincoln and Kennedy, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Currently, the NCRA provides a free course to introduce real-time writing to all Americans. This course allows high schoolers, career changers, college redirects, and military veterans to see if a profession in real-time writing is the right career choice for them.

It has always been an honor and a privilege to support the NCRA. Last year, I was proud to co-sponsor H.R. 4652, the Training for Realtime Writers Act. This bill will establish a grant program that will support and increase training for court reporters and closed captioners. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I look forward to continuing to work to get this bill passed.

I want to thank real-time writers everywhere and the NCRA for all the hard work they do.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH  
BIRTHDAY OF LARRY K. DEASON

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th birthday of my good friend, Larry K. Deason.

Larry was born on February 9, 1952. He graduated from Jacksonville State University and later from LSU School of Banking.

As a longtime banker, Larry has served in many capacities, but most recently as President of F&M Bank until 2017 and now as President Emeritus.

Larry recently completed his work as Chairman of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and was named Anniston Star's Citizen of the Year.

Larry serves as Trustee Emeritus of Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center (RMC), Past Chairman of RMC Board, Chair-

man of the Economic Development Council of Calhoun County, Founding Member of Anniston Surgery Center, Founding Member of The Empty Stocking Gala, Elected Delegate for the Alabama Independent Community Bankers of America, Past Chairman of Alabama Banker's Association, Co-Chair of Core-4, Past Vice Chairman of The Anniston Museum of Natural History and Member of the Airport Authority for the East Alabama Metropolitan Airport.

Larry is married to Betty and has one daughter, Maryann and two precious grandchildren.

Friends and family will gather to celebrate his 70th birthday at the 19th Hole at the Anniston Country Club on February 9th.

Larry is a devoted servant to Calhoun County and is known in the community for his hard work.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Larry a very happy birthday.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 16, On Ordering the Previous Question, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3485) Global Respect Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4445) Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4521) Bioeconomy Research and Development Act I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 17, On Agreeing to the Resolution, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3485) Global Respect Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4445) Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4521) Bioeconomy Research and Development Act I would have voted Nay.

A RUSH TO GREATNESS, IN  
MEMORY OF GREAT LIMBAUGH

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and pioneer from The Show Me State our beloved Missouri, who changed the world of radio broadcasting In His Rush To Greatness. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell be included in the RECORD.

A RUSH TO GREATNESS

By Albert Carey Caswell

When our last days are done and seen our  
final suns

What have we left behind begun?

Is it light or darkness our true sum?

Did we make a difference with it all?

Did we take the path less traveled answering  
the call?

Few will etch the sands of time,  
up to the heights of Mount Rushmore climb  
Like Mark Twain creating a new paradigm  
When, all seemed lost came rushing in,  
for the forgotten all in his magnificent  
rhymes

His golden voice touching hearts and minds  
Schooling us from your Limbaugh institute  
The Voice of Truth

Building a case none could refute

With Mr. Snerdly in awe at his magic pro-  
duced

Visions of the future,

from the past brick by brick a wall of proof  
Coming out of the darkness to bring his light  
Use your talent on loan from God to shine  
your light

At an early age a normal path to success dis-  
obeyed

Deep down inside his heart cried out the  
course to stay

Dropping out of college his parents couldn't  
dissuade

In Rock and Roll he dug the beat,

his soul longing for something much more  
deep

Filling American's void creating a GOLD  
RUSH in hearts to keep

America began to fade as you Rushed in with  
the answers to save

The bedrock principals our framers The Con-  
stitution and Bill of Rights made

Things like God, Mom, County, The Flag,

be proud to be an American don't ask why

Mega Dittos, "It's The American Way"

Bringing your QUANTUM FORCE to social-  
ism slay

To look to America's heroes like King, Wash-  
ington, Kennedy, Lincoln, Dole, Bush,  
Reagan, Parks, MacArthur for a better  
day

Like "The Gift of Hope" Bob,

and The Measure Of The Man Bob Dole his  
character on display

When children called in you felt his heart  
blush in every way

For your bravado on their air,

off one of the most humble men standing  
there

When no one was looking for his fellow  
human being so cared

So many stories of helping others with our  
Lord will share

America has lost a greatest champion of  
freedom here

The fourth column of truth is weaken for  
freedoms everywhere

Who to slay socialism dared

Tonight as your loved ones lay their heads  
down to rest

Comes a gentle rain across Missouri, Florida  
our Nation to bless

Our Lord's tears up in Heaven to help you  
rest

Until, your lovely wife Catherine and family  
meet again when they crest

And you won't have to cry no more

Rush's is an angel now,

You will hear him on the wind

When, you wake feel you'll feel him where  
he's been

Watching over you time and again

Rush there are talk shows in heaven my  
friend

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Now we lay your body down to rest  
 Heaven holds a place,  
 for men who've rushed to greatness but still  
 loved with grace  
 Giving back far more than they'd take  
 Amen.

# HONORING THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. BEATRICE BYRD

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life achievements of Ms. Beatrice Byrd, in celebration of her 80th Birthday. Born February 3, 1942, Ms. Byrd, has served as a selfless and celebrated advocate to her community of Red Hook, Brooklyn.

As a public servant, Ms. Byrd ran for City Council to represent her community and the surrounding area in 1991. She has also been elected to serve as the Resident Association President of Red Hook Houses West. In her appointment as a NYCHA Board member, she was an outspoken voice for tenant rights and ensured that her neighbors received equal opportunities, resources, and access to upward mobility.

In her tenure as an educator, Ms. Byrd was a well-respected NYC Public School teacher during the most formative years of a child. She continues to remain a recognized role model in and around the community of Red Hook.

In her role of extended community service, she held the prestigious honor as the President to the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was a member to the Lions Club of Red Hook and served on Area Policy Board 6. Currently Ms. Byrd continues to represent Red Hook as a board member to the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center.

As displayed by her decades of community service, Ms. Beatrice Byrd remains a solid pillar of the Red Hook community. She is well respected by generations of her students, neighbors, community professionals and the local clergy. Through her life-long actions she has instilled the core values of ethics, public service and civic pride.

I thank Ms. Byrd for her public service and Happy 80th Birthday.

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO AL LIBASCI

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Al Libasci of York, Pennsylvania, a World War II veteran who will be turning 102 years old on February 25, 2022. Al's life has been one of service to our country. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942, Al served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the Jolly Rogers, 90th Heavy Bomb Group, 5th Air Force. Al flew over thirty combat missions in a B-24 Liberator, bravely serving our country overseas. After the War, Al went on to work as a civilian employee for the government, helping the military to acquire

land for some of its installations, including the land on which the United States Air Force Academy now sits. Al's life has been marked by so much more than his career and service, however. He is a father, a husband, a bowling enthusiast, and a friend to many who has touched the lives of people around him with his positivity and enthusiasm.

Al's life has been an extraordinary one and I wish him, his family, and his wife, Rosina, the happiest of birthdays as he celebrates his 102nd.

# IN RECOGNITION OF BETSY LAWRENCE AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with ZOE LOFGREN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, to thank Betsy Lawrence for her service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Betsy came to the Committee as part of a distinguished career working to advance the rights of immigrants and their families. She had previously worked for more than a decade at the American Immigration Lawyers Association, where she held several different positions, including Associate Director of Education, Associate Director of Liaison, and Director of Government Relations. Before joining AILA, Betsy was an associate attorney at Van Der Hout LLP. She earned her B.S. from Northeastern University and her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Betsy joined the Committee on the Judiciary as Counsel to our Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship in February 2019—an especially busy time as we prepared to advance a robust immigration reform agenda and conduct meaningful oversight of the Trump Administration's anti-immigrant policies. Betsy quickly proved herself to be an invaluable member of our immigration team, and we were pleased to promote her to Chief Counsel of our Immigration Subcommittee at the beginning of this Congress.

During her tenure here, Betsy played a pivotal role in ensuring House passage of numerous bills to provide for a more humane and just immigration system, including the American Dream and Promise Act, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (NO BAN) Act, and the Access to Counsel Act. She was also heavily involved in our investigation into the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" or family separation policy, our efforts to include meaningful immigration reform in the reconciliation process, and our work to ensure immigration provisions were included in the America COMPETES Act of 2022. Despite our polarized political climate, Betsy and her team successfully worked to pass several bills into law, including the Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act and the HOPE (Honoring Our Promises through Expedition) for Afghan SIVs Act of 2021. The Committee is deeply proud of her record of accomplishment.

The country has been fortunate to have Betsy working hard within the halls of Con-

gress to reform our broken immigration system, undo the harms caused by the last administration, and ensure the expedient issuance of special immigrant visas to those who served side by side with American troops in Afghanistan. Although we will miss her greatly, we know she will continue to make her country proud as she transitions to her new role in the Biden-Harris Administration.

We thank Betsy for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

# HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CACHAVIOUS "CHAY" ENGLISH

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Cachavious "Chay" English, my beloved former Chief of Staff, and key advisors; Chay joined our staff as a legislative assistant in January of 2011 and served his home district with distinction for almost ten years. In November of last year, Chay took on a new role at BGR Group, a primer bipartisan lobbying, and public relations firm, as a vice president where he will be focusing on financial services, tax, and health care policies.

Chay received his education from the University of Michigan, where he served as a residential advisor before receiving his Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies. At the University of Michigan, Chay became a member of his esteemed fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a brotherhood that has provided him an invaluable network for years to come. He then continued his education at the University of Alabama School of Law, where he graduated with a 3.0. It was here where he began setting the foundation for his promising career in politics as a member of the Trial Advocacy Competition Team that would go on to become national champions in 2009 through 2010. As an active student at the University of Alabama, Chay was also a member of the Order of Barristers Honors Society and the National Black Law Students Association.

Professionally while working as a legal intern for the National Labor Board Field Office and former Alabama 7th Congressional District Representative Congressman Artur David in 2009 and 2010, Chay continued to expand his knowledge of politics by performing statutory research and analysis on proposed legislation concerning Displaced Citizens' Voting Rights, the Elder Justice Act, Military Internet Voting, and Gulf Coast Reconstruction. Chay joined our office in 2011 and served as a Legislative Assistant serving as an interim primary policy advisor for all proposed legislative initiatives, policy recommendations, and recorded votes. Devoting his considerable talents to ensuring the progression of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, he quickly became the primary counsel for legislative initiatives and policy recommendations pertaining to financial services, small business, agriculture, housing, workforce development, and labor issues.

In 2013, Chay then became one of the lead lobbyists for the American Association for Justice as a part of the Federal Relations Counsel. Here, he led and managed advocacy efforts, managed complex legislative projects, and directly advocated civil justice issues including, intellectual property rights, national security, transportation safety, and consumer protection.

Returning to serve his home district in 2015, Chay returned to our office, where he served as Legislative Director, then a dynamic Chief of Staff until 2020. Here he brought his same hardworking attitude and political astuteness to expand and uplift Alabama's 7th Congressional District. He was not only a valued member of my staff but as a fellow native of Selma, Alabama Chay's success continues to be celebrated throughout my district. Chay serves as the embodiment of what residents from the Black Belt can accomplish when given the opportunity.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of Cachavious English, a true servant leader whose achievements have inspired a generation of future trailblazers from across the Black Belt.

### BACK THE BLUE

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 7, 2022*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for our law enforcement officers.

The men and women in blue who keep our streets safe are heroes. Every day when they put on their uniform, they do so mindful that they may be called upon to put themselves in harm's way. By stepping forward and selflessly protecting us, they make everything else possible. The recent violence against our police officers is a stark reminder of the dangers of the job.

On May 31, 2021, Sergeant Dominic Vaca of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department was killed in the line of duty. Sgt. Vaca spent 17 years protecting the Inland Empire and died a hero. He is just one of 346 officers who was shot in the line of duty in 2021.

Homicide rates in California rose 17 percent last year—on top of a 31 percent rise in 2020. I believe these increases can be in large part attributed to radical calls to defund our police and Democrats' soft on crime rhetoric.

Thankfully, most Americans see our officers for the agents of good that they are. In left-leaning states, however, like California, Democrats have enacted laws that actually make it more difficult for our law enforcement officers to do their job. This is wrong. This is dangerous.

I specifically would like to thank those that keep my community safe. Sheriff Chad Bianco; the Riverside County Sheriffs Department who serve our county and contract cities; as well as the officers of the Corona, Menifee, and Murrieta Police Departments; and all those who serve Riverside County and across the Inland Empire. I thank them for the selfless and heroic work they do.

I stand fully behind our law enforcement officers and will continue to vote for policies that support public safety. We can never repay the men and women who wear the uniform and keep our loved ones safe. But we can—and we should—always have their back.

### IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Mentoring Month.

January 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people.

Mentoring programs across the country make our communities stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection.

Mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses. Quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults.

Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap, but have a mentor, are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking.

National Mentoring Month is the time of year to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring across our country and recruit caring adult mentors. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in this celebration and thank those individuals who are willing to step up and help shape the next generation of young Americans.

### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HYATTSVILLE MAYOR KEVIN WARD

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mayor

Kevin Ward. The Hyattsville community lost a trusted leader and a strong advocate when Kevin tragically lost his life to suicide on January 22. He was just forty-four years old and left behind a husband, two sons, and a grandson. His loss is deeply felt across the community and throughout Prince George's County in my district, and the outpouring of grief is a testament to the impact he left on so many. There was no one more willing to lend an ear to a neighbor or to do whatever it took to change someone's life for the better in the community to which he gave so much of his energy, talent, and love.

Kevin saw Hyattsville as 'the jewel in the crown of Prince George's County,' and he dedicated himself to making that jewel shine brighter. In 2015, Kevin was elected to the Hyattsville City Council, and during his tenure as a Council member and later as Council President, he promoted an inclusive agenda to help Hyattsville residents thrive and get ahead. He cosponsored legislation aimed at making Hyattsville more welcoming to and inclusive of immigrants and voted to expand the municipal franchise to include non-citizen residents. Under his leadership, Hyattsville experienced unprecedented economic growth with the expansion of the Gateway Arts District and creation of new housing.

In 2020, Kevin became Interim Mayor and was elected to a full term last May. As Hyattsville's first openly gay and second Black mayor, Kevin was a trailblazer not only in representation but in the boldness of his vision. During his time in office, he was a champion for youth, affordable housing, and sustainability efforts. He worked zealously to help residents throughout the pandemic, partnering with the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville to set up vaccination clinics and food distribution for those in need.

Kevin was more than an exemplary public servant: he was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband. His love for his husband Chad, his sons Sydney and Norman, and his grandson Elijah inspired him to work for a better future for them and all who shared their community. I offer my deepest condolences to Kevin's family, friends, and neighbors, who will surely be reflecting on his legacy for a long time to come and who have already been an enormous support to Chad, their sons, and their grandson during this very difficult time. Through the darkness of this moment, surely Kevin's memory will be the inspiring light to guide the community forward into brighter days to come. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in remembering Kevin Ward and his life of service, passion, and love for his community.

The rise in suicide among Black Americans is a challenge we as a nation cannot ignore. The pandemic has exacerbated mental health struggles for millions of Americans, and it is essential that we all do our part to reach out and help others who may be in need of assistance. I urge anyone struggling with grief or mental health challenges to reach out and seek support from the many resources available, including the National Suicide Hotline at (800) 273-8255.

HONORING DAVE LENTELL AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Lentell as Iowan of the Week. Dave is the Lead Lender Relations Specialist at the Small Business Administration (SBA) Iowa District office. Dave lives in Waukee, and through his almost 29 years with the Iowa SBA he held countless conversations connecting with small business owners throughout Iowa and across the 3rd District. I'm glad to take this opportunity to recognize Dave for his dedicated public service for Iowa's small businesses over the course of his career.

Dave first joined the Iowa SBA in 1993 for an internship while studying at Drake University. Quickly after starting his work, the Great Flood of 1993 happened, and Dave stepped up and took an outsized role in facilitating disaster relief information. Dave was offered full-time work after graduating college and has remained with the Iowa SBA since then. Over that period, Dave has helped other businesses and homeowners through periodic disaster events—while also offering technical support and advice to businesses seeking to break-through. Dave most appreciates the ability to connect with business owners and lenders to identify paths forward for Iowa's small business economy—which includes over 273,000 small businesses.

Since COVID-19 began, Dave has once again stepped up as he did in 1993—but in this case, the pandemic affected every small business in Iowa. With SBA charged to administer disaster relief programs such as Economic Impact Disaster Loans (EIDL) and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Dave's engagement with the business and lending community increased. Through collaboration with businesses directly, and associated organizations and groups, Dave worked hard to ensure that information was distributed throughout the Iowa community and has earned the respect of his SBA colleagues, who nominated him to my office for recognition.

While we all seek a general return to normalcy, Dave relates that business models have changed during the pandemic—and in many cases that change is here to stay. While the role of SBA may see changes in the future, Dave's service over the past 28 years has certainly been welcome help for our District. I am glad to honor Dave Lentell as Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF OXFORD

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 170th Anniversary of the City of Oxford.

A part of Alabama's Third Congressional District, Oxford, is located in Calhoun County.

The Muscogee Creek Nation called Choccolocco Valley home for 12,000 years. In 1540, Hernando DeSoto crossed the region on behalf of Spain in search of riches. France claimed the lands in 1699 after successfully establishing settlements at Mobile, New Orleans and Biloxi. Even though France controlled the area that would later become Oxford, it was still inhabited by the Creek Nation. England gained possession after the signing of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the Seven Years War. In 1789, the entire northern portion of Alabama was owned by Georgia. The lands were given to the federal government in 1802 as part of the Mississippi Territory.

Alabama was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819. Benton County was incorporated on December 18, 1832, and included present-day Calhoun, Cleburne and portions of Cherokee and Talladega Counties. At the time of incorporation, the only incorporated towns in Benton County were Jacksonville and White Plains. In the early 1830s, the Snow and Simmons families were two of the first European descent families to settle among the Creek natives. Snow owned the land south of present-day Choccolocco Street, and Simmons owned the land north. An early legend recalls the area south was called "Skace Grease" and the area north "Lick Skillet." Local folklore says a traveler was passing through and needed a place for rest and food. As he was visiting, he was directed to "lick the skillet" because they were "skace of grease."

Oxford was established on February 7, 1852, the bill proposed by Representative Matthew Allen of Benton County. The limits of the town included one square mile from the center at the male academy on Second Street. Elisha S. Simmons, Edmund P. Gains, John A. Turnipseed, Stephen C. Williams, and Woodson Seay were authorized to run on a ballot for the election of three council members and an intendant (mayor). It was decided that on the first Saturday of each March, annual municipal elections would be held for offices of council and mayor.

On February 21, 1860, Oxford was chartered for the second time due to redrawing of boundary lines and the changing of the name of Benton County to Calhoun County. The limits of the town included a half-mile in each direction from the railroad culvert at Spring Street. Elections were to be held on the first Monday of each March annually. In this incorporation, the law called for the election of seven councilmembers and an intendant. The councilmembers and intendant were given the power to elect a marshal, clerk and treasurer. Those who have served as mayor of Oxford, respectively, include Elisha S. Simmons, Dr. Stephen C. Williams, Samuel C. Kelly, James S. Kelly, Edgar H. Hanna, Charles T. Hilton, William J. Borden, John B. McCain, Dr. Thomas C. Hill, Robert P. Thomason, William H. Griffin, John N. Gunnels, Thomas A. Howle, Maj. William A. Orr, George W. Eichelberger, William C. Gray, Dreadzil P. Haynes, Asa C. Allen, William R. Norton, Davis C. Cooper, Robert R. Pope, Dr. Thomas B. Howle, Carl D. Pace, Hemphill G. Whiteside, Alvis A. Hamric, Bester A. Adams, Earl R. Martin, Therman E. Whitmore, Leon Smith, and Alton Craft.

The Oxford Police Department was established at the time of the first incorporation. However, the earliest police force only included one town marshal. The first recorded

marshal for Oxford was Francis M. Gardner, who served in the early 1880s. The Oxford Fire Department was organized on May 18, 1884, as a volunteer department. Major William A. Orr served as the first chief.

In 1904, the citizens of Oxford were convinced that the town needed a permanent city hall for the purposes of conducting municipal business. In September of that year, it was decided city hall would be located in a building on Main Street and the fire department would share the building. An armory was established adjacent to the building for the Calhoun Rifles. The calaboose was located several yards south on Spring Street.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Oxford a happy 170th anniversary.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the authors of the America COMPETES Act of 2022 for including \$52 billion to incentivize private-sector investments and continued American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing to help address supply chain disruptions and ensure that more semiconductors are produced here at home.

Within my central Florida district is the NeoCity technology campus which is recognized as an emerging microelectronics and advanced manufacturing hub, that has already made synergies with institutions of higher education across Florida and key partnerships with the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Commerce. NeoCity is home to BRIDG, a not-for-profit, public-private partnership specializing in domestic semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing. Imec, a world-renowned international research and development organization active in semiconductor design and architecture. SUSS MicroTec, a leading supplier of equipment and process solutions for the semiconductor industry. And SkyWater Technology, the only U.S. owned and operated pure play trusted foundry, that works on leading-edge advanced packaging technology. They all work in collaboration out of the Center for Neovation, one of the most state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing facilities in the western hemisphere. As envisioned by this important legislation, the facilities, and experts at BRIDG, imec, SUSS MicroTec, and SkyWaterTechnology offer immediate capability to accelerate U.S. production of critical semiconductor chips, strengthen the domestic supply chain so chips are made in America, and turbocharge our research capacity. Equally as important, the NeoCity Academy, a public STEM magnet high school, is training the leaders of tomorrow's science and technology workforce.

I am proud of the work being undertaken in my district to support domestic semiconductor manufacturing technology development as they work to address the supply chain. I look forward to working with the Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce on implementation of the American Competes Act and the CHIPS for America Fund.

I appreciate the inclusion of three amendments for consideration in the final passage of the COMPETES Act:

**CHIPS Funding to Non-Profits:** Adds non-profits to the definition of “covered entities” to expand the semiconductor incentive program to include nonprofit entities. This clarifies that non-profit entities like the 501(c) facilities in NeoCity are also eligible for funding under the semiconductor incentive program.

**AI JOBS Amendment (H.R. 6553):** Directs the Department of Labor to create a report analyzing the future of artificial intelligence and its impact on the American Workforce. Specifically, the report would collect data to analyze which industries are protected to have the most growth through artificial intelligence, and the demographics which may experience expanded career opportunities and those most vulnerable to job displacement. This is an inclusion of the standalone bill H.R. 6553, the AI JOBS Act.

**Blockchain & Crypto Specialist w/in OSTP:** Requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a blockchain and cryptocurrencies advisory specialist position within the Office to advise the President on matters related to blockchain and cryptocurrencies. OSTP advises the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the scientific, engineering, and technological aspects of the economy, national security, homeland security, health, foreign relations, and the environment. It is critical to create such a position within OSTP to ensure there is a policy expert capable of advising the President and others within the Executive Office on these issues of growing national importance.

The Restoring Resilient Reefs Act (RRRA) reauthorizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA), which expired nearly fifteen years ago. It maintains the NOAA Coral Reef program, while also introducing overdue improvements to coral management and restoration efforts and giving innovative new tools to partners who are closest to this crisis: states, territories, tribes, communities, and universities.

#### KEY PROVISIONS.

A 5-year authorization with an explicit focus on restoration activities where natural disasters and human activities have degraded reef ecosystems. This program is currently funded at \$33M for 2021 but without further direction by Congress.

Creates a block grant program where states and territories can receive federal “matching funds” for the prior year’s coral expenditures, provided they have an action plan in place, which will incentivize increased state and local investment of in coral reef management capacity.

Intergovernmental partnerships are key for water infrastructure upgrades, pollution mitigation efforts and regrowing reefs,

Allows for the formation of a public-private partnerships for coral management, called “Coral Stewardship Partnerships.”

Public-Private partnerships are critical for sharing researching.

Authorizes the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, to ensure states, territories, and other stakeholders continue to have a voice in U.S coral reef management. Public feedback is essential.

Establishes of a single streamlined set of guidelines for “action plans” to implement the national strategy, with maximum flexibility

given to state and local authorities. These action plans will focus restoration efforts more effectively.

Allows for emergency grants and emergency funds for coral disasters. This will assist with Hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis, as well as oil spills and other major pollution events.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERT AARON

#### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bertram Donald Aaron. Known by friends and loved ones as Bert, Mr. Aaron was a staple in the Hampton Roads area and leaves a long-lasting impact on our community.

Born in 1922 in Newport News, Bert was the eldest son of Harry and Lillian Aaron. He attained the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army in the Pacific theater during World War II. Following the war, Bert worked as an Aeronautical Research Scientist at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, now NASA. He then worked as an engineer for the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he received the Commanders Medal for his service to national defense.

Named Daily Press Citizen of the Year for his support of local charities and the Virginia Symphony, Bert’s lasting contributions to our community are a testament to his enduring passion for the performing arts. He worked tirelessly to maintain the Greater Williamsburg Virginia Symphony Society, serving on the Board of the Symphony for 25 years and chairing the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission. Additionally, Bert was a fierce advocate for breast cancer research, organizing and chairing the first Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation Symposium on state-of-the-art medicine for breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

I am grateful for Bert’s philanthropic spirit and his outstanding contributions to our community. It saddens me to hear of Bert’s passing, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF EDGAR STUART CAHN

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Edgar Stuart Cahn, who passed away at 86 years of age on January 23, 2022, in Bethesda, Maryland.

Edgar Stuart Cahn was born on March 23, 1935, and was raised in an activist household in New York. While earning his undergraduate degree at Swarthmore College, Edgar met and fell in love with fellow student Jean Camper, forming a partnership that would eventually spur substantial social, political and legal change for the benefit of our country’s most vulnerable. They married in New York, because, at the time, interracial marriage was illegal in Jean’s home state of Maryland.

Edgar and Jean both attended Yale Law School, where I met them as a fellow student. Following graduation, they moved to the District of Columbia in 1963, with Jean working as a legal advisor at the Department of State and Edgar as Special Assistant to and speechwriter for Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. They would later work together in the Office of Economic Opportunity, where they, along with Sargent Shriver, established a first-of-its-kind federally funded program that provided legal aid to low-income Americans. This groundbreaking initiative, the predecessor to the Legal Services Corporation, is widely acknowledged as setting a blueprint for legal services and catalyzing what was then the burgeoning field of public interest law.

Edgar next undertook a two-year campaign organizing Native American leaders in an effort that led to the end of the official federal policy of terminating Native American tribes, and, with his book *Our Brother’s Keeper: The Indian in White America*, a classic indictment of America’s treatment of Native Americans, to enactment of Public Law 93–638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Edgar and Jean founded the Antioch School of Law, the predecessor to the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. He served as a member of the UDC law faculty until near the end of his life.

Edgar was a visionary in strategies to alleviate poverty, a pioneer in clinical legal education and a dear friend. He led with an unwavering focus to help the most vulnerable among us. He was equally beloved for his kindness, and he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Dr. Edgar Stuart Cahn.

### RECOGNIZING TRICIA STEVER BLATTLER

#### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Tricia Stever Blattler on her 15th anniversary with the Tulare County Farm Bureau and for her service to the Tulare, agriculture community.

Mrs. Blattler is an Exeter native and grew up on farms owned by the Pinkham family. She attended Exeter High School and participated in Mock Trial, 4–H, and FFA. After graduating high school, she went on to receive degrees in Agriculture Science and secondary teaching credentials from California Polytechnic State University. She received scholarships from the Tulare County and California Farm Bureaus.

In her first year with the Tulare County Farm Bureau, she was awarded a “Top 5” 40 under 40 Rising Stars business leader award by the Tulare Economic Development Corporation and Visalia Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of the distinguished California Ag Leadership Class 34 and the Dale Carnegie Public Speaking Institute. In addition to her role as Executive Director at the Tulare County Farm Bureau, Mrs. Blattler has served on the boards and advisory committees of the

FFA Foundation, Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County, Tulare County Ag, Farmland Mitigation Guidebook, Farmersville High School Ag, and Tulare County Animal Services.

She is viewed as a leader in the community for her communication to policymakers and time spent advising regulatory boards on issues such as air, water, ag crime, and land use. She has also volunteered time to Common Threads, the World Ag Expo, Ag Ventures, and many other community events.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Tricia Stever Blattler for her contributions to the agriculture industry and the Central Valley.

#### RECOGNIZING PAUL WILLIAM BEATTY

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding constituent from my district, Paul William Beatty, who has served as a volunteer firefighter at the Goodwill Hose Co. No. 3 Station in Bristol, Pennsylvania for nearly four decades. Following in the footsteps of his father and brothers, Paul became a volunteer firefighter and fought over 500 fires, helping save countless lives and giving comfort to those who had lost everything.

I am proud to honor Paul as an exceptional member of our community and celebrate his retirement. Whether at noon or midnight, the dead of winter or the heat of summer, Paul has always answered the call for help when it was needed. He has demonstrated extraordinary bravery and leadership over the past 39 years and his hard work has contributed to the safety of our community.

I am incredibly grateful for the positive impact Paul has had on others throughout his long career of service, and I wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING RICHARD LINEBERRY ON HIS ELECTION

#### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard Lineberry of Hamilton for his service as State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Indiana.

Richard joined VFW Post 2457 in 2011 and has been a leader since. He has served as the 4th District Commander, the Indiana Department Junior Vice Commander and the Indiana Department Senior Vice Commander.

Richard has served his community, state and country in several capacities beyond that of the VFW, as well. For nearly 34 years, he served in the United States Air Force Reserve/National Guard. For twenty years, Richard served as a law enforcement officer in New Haven, where he held positions including deputy coroner, Sergeant, SCUBA Recovery, accident reconstructionist, and firearms instruc-

tor. For 12 years, he worked at the VA hospital in Fort Wayne both as a police officer and as a Means Test Officer where he presided over initial enrollments for veterans seeking benefits.

Richard is also a proud board member of Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, which helps bring Hoosier veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Remarkably, he has registered over 100 veterans for these honor flights, including many who served in World War II.

Few men are as deserving of State Commander as Richard. That's why I'm proud to honor him for all the remarkable things he has done and the lives he has changed. This position as State Commander has been a crowning achievement of a record of service for which our community is most grateful.

#### THREAT FROM FENTANYL FLOWING OVER OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

#### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a catastrophic mass death in our country because of our open borders—all due to fentanyl.

Fentanyl is freely flowing across our southern border as seizures increased by nearly 135 percent in 2021 under Joe Biden's lax immigration enforcement.

In FY 2021, Customs and Border Protection seized 11,201 pounds of fentanyl, a historic rate that is more than all that was seized in 2018 and 2019 combined. This amounts to enough fentanyl to cause 2,540,341,996 deaths, or more than 7 times the U.S. population.

The free flow of this deadly drug across our border is a direct result of the Biden administration's open border policies. The fact is, Joe Biden continues to ignore and fails to address the record high overdose deaths caused from deadly fentanyl-related substances crossing our border.

As a result, the scourge of fentanyl is destroying our communities, killing our children and devastating our families.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. overdose deaths reached a devastating new height in 2021, claiming a new victim every five minutes.

There is a direct link between fentanyl-related overdose deaths and criminal drug cartels in Mexico. The ease in which the drug cartels operate is shocking. The cartels control the borders and are taking full advantage of Joe Biden's weak immigration policies.

Last December, in my home state of Arizona, the Scottsdale Police Department and the Arizona Attorney General's Office seized a record 1.7 million fentanyl pills and 10 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

During a recent two-month public safety surge, the DEA Phoenix Field Division announced total seizures of over three million fentanyl pills and 45 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

Just one fentanyl pill can kill. Yet our open borders remain a fentanyl pipeline.

Instead of securing our southern border to stop the flow of fentanyl, Mr. Biden has doubled down on his open-border policies that will only worsen the ongoing border crisis and destroy more communities and lives.

Just because Joe Biden ignores the fentanyl crisis doesn't mean Congress should. Congress must address the crisis at the border.

Congress must also take action and permanently place fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The emergency class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances is set to expire on February 18, 2022.

Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats are wrong to allow this order to expire.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Southern Union State Community College.

Southern Union State Community College is the second oldest two-year college in Alabama, and is currently under the leadership of President Todd Shackett.

Southern Union has compiled a rich history throughout the years. Originally chartered by the Southern Christian Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, SUSCC was planned as a feeder school for Elon College in North Carolina. In 1922, 51 students stepped into a single building in Wadley, Alabama, that was then known as Bethlehem College; and the dream of a college in east Alabama was realized.

Southern Union remained church related until 1964, operating as Piedmont Junior College, Southern Union College and The Southern Union College. On October 1, 1964, the college was the first to be deeded to the State of Alabama to become part of the newly-created system of two-year colleges. The name of the college became Southern Union State Junior College, and it achieved accreditation in 1970 from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In response to requests from business and industry, Southern Union expanded its reach to an even wider area in the late 1960s and early 1970s, offering higher education opportunities in Lee and Chambers counties by holding classes at local high schools. The college continued its commitment to the citizens of the area with the construction of campuses in the cities of Opelika and Valley. In 1974, the Valley Campus was completed. And, in 1982, the college purchased land in Opelika and offered a full-range of course offerings at its Opelika Campus. On August 12, 1993, the college merged with the local technical college, thus expanding its technical education offerings. Upon merging, the college became Southern Union State Community College.

Today, Southern Union has three campus locations in Wadley, Opelika and Valley and boasts an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. SUSCC serves residents of an eight county area of East and Central Alabama as

well as neighboring Georgia counties. A three-faceted educational emphasis is on academic programs for transferability, technical programs for specialized career competencies and health sciences programs for specialized training in the health field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Southern Union a happy 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WILLIAMS AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank John Williams for his service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

John came to the Committee as merely the last step in a distinguished career in public service. He previously worked for various offices on Capitol Hill, including for former Representative Baron Hill of Indiana, the House Committee on Rules, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. He has also held positions at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the IMPAC 2000 redistricting project, and, most recently—before rejoining us on the Hill—at the Federal Communications Commission. John received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

John joined the Committee on the Judiciary as Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian in November 2019, as the House was in the midst of its first impeachment inquiry into then-President Trump. His knowledge of House procedure and parliamentary rules were critical as we navigated the first Presidential impeachment in two decades—and again a year later as we conducted the second impeachment of that same president.

John has played an integral role advising me, our subcommittee chairs, and staff over the course of more than 75 committee hearings and more than 100 bill votes in committee and on the House floor. John also worked especially closely with our subcommittees as we participated in several reconciliation processes this Congress.

John's knowledge and counsel have been invaluable as we have worked to deliver tangible results for the American people over the past two years. His guidance has helped us move dozens of bills through both chambers of Congress and to the President's desk. We will miss John's work ethic and counsel as he takes the next step in his career.

We thank John for his service to the Committee and wish him the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LULA MARIE EDWARDS

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Lula Marie

Edwards, an entrepreneur, exemplary community leader, and pioneering nurse during the Civil Rights Movement who passed at age 92 on February 1, 2022.

Mrs. Edwards was born one of six children on September 6, 1929, in Orville, AL, to the late James and Mary Scott-Harris. Valuing education even as a child, Mrs. Edwards was the first person in her family to graduate from high school at the top of the 1948 Keith High School inaugural graduating class. She continued her education at Selma University, where she studied to become an educator. However, after caring for her ailing brother Robert, Mrs. Edwards gained the attention of the nuns at Good Samaritan Hospital, and they encouraged her to become a nurse. Upon completing her LPN training at Good Samaritan School of Nursing in 1953, she served as a pioneering African American nurse treating the Foot Soldiers who were bludgeoned during "Bloody Sunday" in 1965, as they peacefully demonstrated for the equal right to vote.

During her time at Good Samaritan Hospital, Mrs. Edwards served dutifully, working in every area of the hospital from 1953 until the hospital's closure. Continuing to serve her community as a healthcare professional, she went on to work at Vaughan Regional Hospital and Dr. Ernest Okeke Family Medicine before ultimately retiring from nursing in 1995 at 42. Upon her retirement, she was honored by Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Inc. for her extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession.

Spending much of her childhood in Siloam Baptist Church, Mrs. Edwards devoted her life to Christ at an early age. She was a member of the Queen of Peace Catholic Church before joining the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, where she faithfully served in various capacities including, the Mother of the church, a member of the Missionary Society, and an active Sunday school member. Mrs. Edwards was also an ardent fundraiser for the church and consistently encouraged the youth and supported all church activities.

Dedicating her life to helping others, Mrs. Edwards exuded a sense of community, continuing, to help people outside of the hospital setting by opening her home to provide healthcare to people who otherwise would not have had access to it earning her the title "neighborhood doctor." As an enterprising woman, she also served as a landlord opening homes on her property once again, to those in need providing affordable housing for her tenants and creating a safe haven for the entire community.

Mrs. Edwards was preceded in death by her parents James and Mary Harris, loving husband Amos Edwards, son James "Ebo" Ervin, sister Nellie B. Jackson, brothers Andrew Jackson (A.J.) Harris, James "Lil Buddy" Harris, Jr., and grandson Kenneth "Ken Bear" Edwards Sr. She is survived by her children, Brenda (Steven) Brazzell, Anthony Edwards, Amy (Roosevelt) Marzette, Stephanie Meniffee, Louis (Lisa) Edwards, Bonita (Calvin) Andrews, and Derrick (Adrein) Edwards, sixty-two grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, seven great-great grandchildren, brothers Robert Harris, Sr. and Lovie Lee Harris, faithful God daughter Nancy Clark Jackson, and a host of additional relatives, members of her church family, friends, and community children.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in rec-

ognizing the life and legacy of Lula Marie Edwards and her contributions to the Selma community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID E. RIVERS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a committed educator and public servant, who lived by the Biblical teaching to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly." He also happened to be a very dear friend for more than 40 years, Dr. David E. Rivers transitioned from this life on February 4, 2022, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

Dr. Rivers was born on June 7, 1943, in Fayetteville, Georgia. He was the second of five children born to Joseph and Lorine Rivers. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in urban affairs, political science and public administration at Georgia State University. He went on to graduate from the National Urban Fellows Program in Public Administration at Yale University and the Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program at Furman University. He was also a charter member of Georgia State University's first Black Greek organization, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Incorporated, which was chartered in 1968.

Before beginning his professional career, Dr. Rivers, served three years in the U.S. Army. He became Atlanta's first African American Commissioner of Budget and Planning under Mayor Maynard Jackson. He held leadership positions on the Atlanta Regional Commission, at Georgia State University, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and headed the Public Health Department in the District of Columbia Government under Mayor Marion Barry.

All of these experiences were a precursor to his extraordinary career at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He joined MUSC's faculty in 1995, and served in many distinguished capacities, promoting partnerships between academic institutions, government agencies, elected officials, business industry, faith-based groups, and community activists to build healthier communities. At the time of his death, Dr. Rivers was the Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach Initiative (PICO) at MUSC, a program he founded.

Dr. Rivers served as Principal Investigator, administering over \$20 million in sponsored funding during his career, and was a collaborator in securing funding for over \$100 million in national, state, and local programs during his career. Under his leadership, the PICO Initiative conducted nationwide Community Leaders Institutes to address the impact of health disparities and environmental justice issues in low-income, ethnic minority communities and other underserved populations.

South Carolina Educational Television produced his award-winning Community Leaders Institute programs, which were televised to national audiences. In recognition of his work on climate change and its impact across the United States, Dr. Rivers received multiple



nominations and won a Bronze Telly Award and the highest viewership of a televised program produced by Educational Television.

Dr. Rivers led the planning and execution of the National Conference on Health Disparities for nearly two decades, which provided a national dialogue to share progress in building healthy communities from 2007 through 2021. He also organized and led the Environmental Justice Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Legislative Conference. The Braintrust recommended strategies to help policy makers address environmental issues by fostering a relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development.

In 2009, Dr. Rivers became the first African American to hold a citywide elected office in Charleston, SC. He served as a Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Charleston since 2009, where he also served as Vice Chairman and Chairman. He was re-elected unopposed in 2015 and 2021.

Dr. Rivers served as Chairman of the National Urban Fellows and the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation boards. He was President of the Jonathan Green Foundation, and he was Vice Chairman of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corporation. He was a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Water Works Association, and Water Environment Federation.

He also served on the Boards of the South Carolina Aquarium, My Brother's Keeper, and the 100 Black Men of Charleston, SC. He was also a member of the National Council of La Raza, California State University Center for Latino Community Health in Monterey Bay, California; Allen University Board of Trustees; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Council, Executive Committee; the Advisory Board of Charleston's First Reliance Bank, and the Trident Urban League. He also served as a Board Member of Trident Urban League, the Community Foundation, and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. David Rivers. His impact can be felt across this country in so many communities that are addressing environmental justice and health disparities, and his work will continue through the initiatives he developed and nurtured throughout his career. Dr. Rivers led a life of purpose driven by passion. May he rest in power.

## CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF BARRY VIRTS

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Sheriff Barry Virts, who retired December 31, 2021 after 44 years with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. A dedicated public servant, Sheriff Virts demonstrated a profound commitment to public safety throughout his career.

Sheriff Virts is a lifelong resident of the Town of Rose in Wayne County, New York and graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School. He earned an Associate's degree from Erie Community College and began his career in law enforcement in 1977 as a corrections officer for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Virts was quickly promoted to road patrol deputy a year later, sergeant in 1985, and criminal investigations lieutenant in 1988. In 1999, he began overseeing the Wayne County jail as Chief Deputy.

Following ten years with the jail division, in 2009 Sheriff Virts was elected Sheriff of Wayne County. At the outset of his term, Sheriff Virts placed a significant emphasis on improving support for victims and collaboration between various police departments. For his work, Sheriff Virts has received local honors and served on over thirteen community and advisory boards including the Wayne County Criminal Justice Council, Wayne County Jail Advisory, Victim Resource Center, Wayne County Diversity Task Force, Wayne County Pretrial Youth and Adult Diversion. He also served on the Council on Alcoholism & Other Addictions, Wayne County Fire Chief's Association, and the Wayne County Housing Consortium.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the career of Sheriff Barry Virts and his commitment to public safety. I wish Sheriff Virts the best in his retirement.

## REMEMBERING CHESTER ALAN BARTOL

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Chester "Chet" Bartol of Fort Wayne who passed away last month.

Chet was a hard-working, intelligent man who served our country and his community with joy. He graduated Warsaw High School in 1945 and attended Purdue University, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. For nearly fifty years, he worked in orthopedics as a distributor and was the owner of Zimmer-Bartol Associates.

In addition to his academic and career pedigree, Chet was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the Electrical Warfare Division of the Signal Corps. Northeast Indiana, and our country, is grateful to him for his service.

He is remembered as having been particularly active, sociable and selfless. A lifelong fan of Purdue sports, Chet ran high school and college track, and into old age remained a golfer and avid cardplayer. He is also remembered as having been a loving husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, five children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In the wake of his passing, I wish Chet's family peace, comfort and joy in knowing he lived a long and happy life. Though he is no longer alive, his spirit lives on in the minds and souls of those whom he knew and loved most.

## RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN BREHM

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of Scotts Bluff County Veteran's Service Officer John Brehm. For nearly 50 years John has devoted his life to honoring and meeting the needs of American veterans and their families. Prior to this John served for three years in the United States Army, stationed near the 38th parallel in South Korea as well as Fort Carson, CO. His recent retirement marks a legacy of faithful service to others who sacrificed for our nation.

Despite his reluctance to assume credit for himself, the significance of John's impact is widely recognized. His accomplishments include restoring annual commencement of the local Veterans Day parade, partnering with the American Legion to organize County Government Day visits for high school students, and spearheading the establishment of Avenue of Flags displays as well as Veterans Memorial Park which now bears his name in my own hometown of Gering.

John has showed personal concern for each veteran he served, knowing full well the importance of going the extra mile. In addition to facilitating disability claims, his efforts fundraising for Disabled American Veterans vans have meant a great deal to veterans in need of transportation to health facilities in our sprawling, rural region.

John Brehm's dedication and patriotism are rare. His expertise will be missed, but we are grateful for his ongoing engagement as a citizen. Countless Nebraskans have been blessed by his care, and generations to come are indebted to his example.